

US Application No.: 10/057,221
Date of Response: December 2, 2005
Date of Action: October 5, 2005

SP02-014

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a polarizing glass article comprising the steps of:

melting a glass batch ~~in which a metal that form a polarizing layer of the glass article is essentially omitted, the metal being selected from the group consisting of silver and copper, the glass batch~~ containing a halide capable of precipitating silver or copper halide;

cooling and shaping the melt into a glass article;

ion-exchanging silver or copper metal into the surface of the glass article;

subjecting the glass article to an elevated temperature for a period of time sufficient to generate and precipitate silver or copper halide crystals in a surface layer of the glass;

elongating the glass article under stress at a temperature above the annealing point of the glass to elongate the crystals in the direction of the stress; and

exposing the elongated glass article to a reducing atmosphere at an elevated temperature to initiate reduction of at least a portion of the silver or copper halide crystals to silver metal;

wherein the ion exchange occurs after cooling and shaping the melt into an article and before subjecting the glass article to an elevated temperature treatment for a period of time sufficient to generate and precipitate silver or copper halide crystals in a surface layer of the glass.

2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the article contains a central layer containing essentially no silver or copper halide crystals.

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3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the surface layer is less than 50 microns thick.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the surface layer is less than 10 microns thick.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of silver or copper metal in the surface layer is greater than 0.1% by weight.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of silver or copper metal in the surface layer is greater than 0.5% by weight.